

WEATHER FORECAST:  
Cloudy and warmer tonight.  
Full Report on Page Two.

# The Washington Times

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## CHURCHILL IS SCORED, SEELY QUILTS, CABINET NEARING FALL

Lloyd George May Head a New Ministry, Is Report Which Is Current in London Today.

Radical and Labor Members of House of Commons Score Government for Surrender to Army.

LONDON, March 25.—Amidst the wildest confusion in the house of commons, during which Winston Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, lost his composure and was rebuked by the speaker, the Asquith cabinet today fought for its life.

The resignation of Col. J. B. Seely as minister of war, was announced on the floor.

Premier Asquith indicated that he has been to have the entire cabinet stand or fall together in the crisis, when he announced today that he would not accept Colonel Seely's resignation.

Defends King George. Colonel Seely heatedly declared suggestions that King George interfered in any way with the situation growing out of the refusal of army officers to serve in Ulster, were without the slightest foundation. Premier Asquith places the blame for the entire crisis on Seely and the war secretary publicly accepted full responsibility.

Churchill admitted when questioned that a squadron of battleships had been ordered to the Irish coast because of possible disturbances, but was later recalled.

The chamber was then thrown into an uproar when L. S. Amery asked Churchill if he had not hoped that his "precautionary measures would lead to a peaceful solution."

Advances on Amery. I repudiate this hellish insinuation," shouted Churchill, as he advanced toward Amery.

Churchill was sternly rebuked for his outburst by the speaker, who termed his "unparliamentary language."

Members were on their feet, shaking their fists and rallying to the support of Asquith or Churchill before order was restored.

There is a report current that David Lloyd George might head a new ministry case the present one resigns.

Following the announcement of his resignation, Colonel Seely sought to resign the cabinet of all responsibility for the surrender of the government to the army officers.

He presented a pitiful spectacle as he faced and countered in an effort to answer some of the questions put to him by a searching cross-examination.

He expostulated General Paget, Sir John French, the war council and the cabinet assuming the entire responsibility. He declared he had inadvertently misled the cabinet with honest intent by adding the army instructions to the cabinet documents without knowing it was final.

## FORCED OUT BY ROW



COL. J. B. SEELY, Secretary of War of Asquith Ministry, Who Seeks Retirement.

## WANT TO BE PUT ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY

Washington and Baltimore Start Campaign to Extend Route 101 Miles.

With the appointment of a committee of twenty-four citizens, the District Commissioners, aided by Washington trade organizations such as the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association of Baltimore, today began a determined effort to have Washington and Baltimore included in the route of the Lincoln highway from New York to San Francisco.

Immediately after the selection of the committee, Col. R. N. Harper, chairman, announced that a meeting will be called within the next few days at which a subcommittee will be appointed to confer with representatives of the board of directors of the Lincoln Highway Association, either at the association's headquarters in Detroit or in this city.

It is probable, Colonel Harper said, that an invitation will be extended to the association to send its representatives to Washington.

Route Is 2,400 Miles Long. This conference, the claims of the National Capital and the Monumental City will be fully presented. The route of the Lincoln highway as at present outlined is by way of Philadelphia and Gettysburg, a length of 3,400 miles.

To include Washington and Baltimore in a conference with the committee representing the Chamber of Commerce and the Retail Merchants' Association, in the office of Commissioner Newman.

Washington will take the initiative in the endeavor to have the two cities placed on the map of the highway. The present proposed route does not cross Mason and Dixon's line.

The Capital's Argument. The argument of the committee will be that the name "Lincoln highway" would be a misnomer if the route did not include the National Capital, where the martyred President spent the most trying years of his life and where he met his death. An additional argument will be that a highway from coast to coast should be a crowning Mason and Dixon's line, cement the bond between the North and the South.

The Washington committee is composed of R. N. Harper, Isaac Gann, R. P. Andrews, Joseph Stoddard, James F. Oyster, William F. Gude, A. L. F. Smith, H. H. McCre, Clarence P. King, T. C. Dulin, Claude B. Miller, John L. Weaver, B. F. Saul, W. H. Meese, and George B. Hamilton.

Restoration of Potts Given Adverse Report. The Senate Naval Affairs Committee at a meeting today went on record against the bill of Senator Morton to restore Capt. T. M. Potts of the navy to the active list. The cause of Captain Potts had been a long and bitter fight in committee and a fight yet to result on the floor of the Senate.

TUMULTU DENIES MEXICAN TALKED WITH PRESIDENT. It was officially denied at the White House today that Senator Algara, Mexican charge, and President Wilson had conferred last night. The story circulated quoted Algara as having presented to the President, new plans for the resumption of negotiations between Huerta and the United States.

"The story is absolutely untrue," said Secretary Tumulty. "Senator Algara did not see the President nor send a communication to him, of any character."

## CHEAPER RATES HERE DEMANDED BY TRADESMEN

I. C. C. Begins Hearings of Complaints as Result of Delivery Abolishment.

CASES CONSOLIDATED TO EXPEDITE EXAMINATION

Merchants Tell How Cost of Drayage Adds Considerably to Their Freight Bills.

Washington's business interests began their fight before the Interstate Commerce Commission today to force reduction in freight rates to cover the loss sustained by the discontinuance of free store delivery, the result of which has been to add a minimum charge of 5 cents a hundred pounds to railroad freight bills for haulage.

The contention of the Washington shippers, as outlined in the opening statements of the attorneys and in the testimony of rate experts, is that the rates in effect prior to the elimination of store-door delivery were made to cover the cost of this service, and that when the delivery was eliminated the rates should have been correspondingly reduced.

Cases Are United. To facilitate the hearing, in the Interstate Commerce room of the New Willard Hotel, Examiner A. S. Pugh permitted the consolidation of cases brought by O. J. De Moll & Co. against the Southern Railway and other roads entering Washington in which suits the Chamber of Commerce and Retail Merchants' Association intervened, and the case of Judd & Dotwell, Inc., against the Baltimore and Ohio and other railroads.

Witnesses examined at the morning session were George H. Judd, one of the complainants; Judson C. Walling, who brought out the control exercised by the railroad over the carriers; A. E. Beck, traffic expert of the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association of Baltimore; John L. Newbold, president of the Merchants' Transfer and Storage Company, which formerly had contract with the road for delivery and now delivers for the merchants at their expense; and M. Caskie, assistant manager of the Freight Audit and Adjustment Company, who was employed as a rate expert to aid the Washington merchants in their case.

Bigger Freight Bills. George H. Judd testified that prior to last September his firm had received an average of 2,000 pounds of freight a month, which was delivered at his sidewalk without additional drayage charges. Since that date, his drayage bill had amounted to from \$5 to \$10 a month. He considered this additional amount an increase in his freight rate.

M. Caskie, the rate expert of the Washington complainants, accompanied Judd, when we went an hour with him on each occasion explaining conditions in the District of Columbia, in order that he might, first, have complete information concerning the affairs of the District, and second, that he might counsel with and advise us on the way in which we administer the functions of our offices.

The District of Columbia is a big subject, and we were unable to cover it in the two previous meetings. Owing to the pressure of his staff, in a Torreon case, as he had promised; nor did he have time to renew our discussion of District affairs with him until today. We talked on a number of subjects concerning the District, but do not feel at liberty at this time to say what they were.

Newman Explains Conference. "Our conference with the President," said Commissioner Newman, "was merely a continuation of the conference we had with the President last fall, when we went an hour with him on each occasion explaining conditions in the District of Columbia, in order that he might, first, have complete information concerning the affairs of the District, and second, that he might counsel with and advise us on the way in which we administer the functions of our offices."

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Concerning the Panama Canal, Ambassador Page, according to his transcript, said: "I will not say that we constructed the Panama Canal even for you. For I am speaking with great frankness, and not with diplomatic indirection. We built it for reasons of our own. But I will say that it adds to the pleasure of building that great work that you will profit by it. I can say a similar thing about the recent lowering of our tariff. We did not lower it in order to please you. It was for purposes that we considered economically sound for ourselves. Nevertheless, it added to the pleasure of doing it to reflect that thereby we should have more trade with you."

"Concerning the Monroe doctrine, Ambassador Page said: 'I take it upon myself, as your responsibility, to say that: He delivered that message, not to please you, but to express the true sentiment and self-respect of the American nation. As I interpret it, his was the voice of the people, nevertheless, it adds to the pleasure of hearing that voice to know that it does please you.'"

"You may be assured that the United States has no part in the American, provided only you do not make them so that you may possibly take the country with them. The Monroe doctrine means this: When it was first formulated, that the United States would object to any European government's taking note land in the New World. In those days the only way that a foreign government could gain land was literally to go and take it. Now we have more refined methods of exploitation and there are other ways to take it. That is the only protest that the United States has ever withheld."

## DISTRICT HEADS AT WHITE HOUSE FOR CONFERENCE

President Holds Long Talk With Commissioners Over Affairs of the Capital.

HE SHOWS AN INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF CONDITIONS

Wilson Not in Sympathy With Those Who Propose Drastic Tax Plan.

Every phase of the various vexing problems confronting the government of the District of Columbia was considered this afternoon at a long conference at the White House between the President and the District Commissioners.

For the first time in months the President today found opportunity to take up a thorough consideration of these questions, in all of which he is deeply interested.

Washington, as the Capital City of the country, he has always felt, should be the model municipality of the United States. Its administration, its methods of taxation, its systems of accounting, paving, fire and police control, and all the features that go to make up the government here, he believes should be the best that brains can devise.

Mrs. Wilson Interested. Mrs. Wilson is no less interested on the side of the social problems of the community, and already with the aid of her husband, she has accomplished much in the way of educating Congress as to the proper way to make this a slumless city.

Today's conference lasted more than an hour, during which time Commissioners Newman and Siddons submitted a summary of needs which they have observed since they took office last summer. During the first part of the conference they did most of the talking. At the close the President took up each question in turn and showed a wide familiarity with the local situation.

He is understood to have indicated to the Commissioners his desire for a thorough study by an impartial commission of experts into the question of taxation, and particularly with respect to the half-and-half principle. It is said the President has small sympathy with members of Congress who have been disposed to ride roughshod over the people of this city. He is said to have had no sympathy whatever with the Crisp and other bills seeking to wipe away the half-and-half principle.

Newman Explains Conference. "Our conference with the President," said Commissioner Newman, "was merely a continuation of the conference we had with the President last fall, when we went an hour with him on each occasion explaining conditions in the District of Columbia, in order that he might, first, have complete information concerning the affairs of the District, and second, that he might counsel with and advise us on the way in which we administer the functions of our offices."

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## Rebels Battering Torreon With New Deadly Shells

HUERTA ALARMED AT REPORT FROM HIS TROOPS

Federals Prepare to Fight Advance of Rebels Toward Mexico City.

HUERTA CLOSES FORCED DEAL FOR A BIG LOAN

Bankers Will Let Him Have \$3,000,000, Half to Be Delivered at Once.

MEXICO CITY, March 25.—General Villa's rebels today are shelling Torreon with a new and unfamiliar shell of the most deadly variety, according to reports from General Velasco, commanding the besieged federal troops. The rebels displayed excellent marksmanship, Velasco reported, and their new shells have created havoc among the federals.

Officers of the Huerta government, after receiving the report, made no effort to conceal their concern for the fate of Torreon, and are preparing for a determined campaign against the rebels when they begin their march to Mexico City, after securing Torreon as a base for operations.

New Loan For Huerta. President Huerta will receive a loan of approximately \$3,000,000, or \$10,000,000, as a result of a plan agreed upon by bankers today. Fifty million pesos are to be furnished at once, and the balance as required. The loan was forced by General Huerta, who threatened the establishment of a federal bank and a heavy tax on corporations and individuals.

The result will be the resumption on April 1 of the interest payments on foreign debts suspended on January 12 last. The plan involves the issuance of treasury notes against the unpaid balance of bonds authorized in May, 1913, to the amount of \$100,000,000. These bonds are to be placed with the Mexican banks at 20 per cent of their face value. The bonds are secured by the pledge of 15 per cent of the customs.

Villa May Be in Trap In Suburb of Torreon. EL PASO, Tex., March 25.—Torreon has not yet fallen, according to the belief expressed here by careful observers of the situation around that stronghold of the Huertistas in northern Mexico.

Gen. Francisco Villa did not take yesterday with Gen. Eugenio Benavides, of his staff, in a Torreon case, as he had promised; nor did he have time to renew our discussion of District affairs with him until today. We talked on a number of subjects concerning the District, but do not feel at liberty at this time to say what they were.

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROJAS, Who is slated to succeed General Huerta as provisional president of Mexico.

## SENATE TO PROBE LIVING COST HERE

Kenyon Resolution Provides \$6,000 for Investigation of Wages in Capital.

An investigation into the cost of living of wage earners in the District will, in all probability, be ordered by the Senate as the result of favorable action by the Education and Labor Committee today on the Kenyon resolution for such an inquiry.

Senator Kenyon reported the resolution to the Senate this afternoon, and it went to the calendar. It would have been passed at once had not Senator Smoot objected to consideration.

The resolution carries an appropriation of \$6,000. The investigation is to be conducted by the Department of Labor. The National Consumers' League is strongly urging the passage of the resolution, which would find out what it costs women employees to live, and then to attempt to set a minimum wage law.

The investigation, however, will take on a much wider scope than this. It will ascertain what it costs the typical family of the wage-earner to live, and the findings will be of value throughout the country. The inquiry will not apply to Government employees.

Miss Eleanor Wilson Is Buying Her Trousseau. Miss Eleanor Wilson is in New York to buy her trousseau. She went there yesterday, and following the example of her sister, Jessie, on a similar trip to New York, she kept secluded.

Search for Miss Wilson at the Waldorf-Astoria, where she stayed on previous visits, at the home of Miss Margie Brown, an intimate friend of the Wilson girls, and at the home of Mrs. George Howe, the President's niece, in New York, failed to locate her.

Yeggs Loot Postoffice After Imprisoning Dozen. ZANESVILLE, Ohio, March 25.—After locking the proprietor of the National Hotel and twelve guests in their rooms so they could not give an alarm, yeggsman early today blew the safe of the postoffice at Zanesville, Ohio, and escaped with money and stamps.

A posse was formed and bloodhounds were put on the trail.

Was Worth \$4,000,000: Arrested as Fugitive. PORTLAND, Ore., March 25.—Walter Greer Campbell, who three years ago had a fortune of more than \$4,000,000, was arrested here on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses in San Francisco. The police found \$100,000 in gold certificates in his pockets.

Campbell left his wife and child in San Francisco on March 3. When he did not return she searched their apartment and discovered numerous pawn tickets for the family silver.

## ONE DEAD, 3 ARE DYING FROM EXPLOSION IN KANN'S STORE

Cylinder Head of Engine Blows Off and Live Steam Takes Life of Engineer—Coolness Saves Panic of Shoppers.

Firemen Carry Victims From Engine Room Through the Scalding Vapor—Praise for Work of Store Employees.

One man was killed and three others fatally scalded shortly before noon today when a cylinder head blew off a big engine in the basement of the department store of S. Kann, Sons & Co., Eighth street and Pennsylvania avenue, filling part of the main floor with a dense cloud of steam and causing much excitement among the hundreds of shoppers and employees in the establishment at the time.

Alexander Cragie, an oiler, thirty-one, of Charles and Williams streets, Brentwood, Md., died in Emergency Hospital at 12:30.

The other three who were scalded and who, according to doctors at Emergency Hospital, will die, are:

Harry Russell, assistant engineer, thirty, of 501 N street southwest.

William Starks, colored fireman, of 69 P street northwest.

Benjamin Archer, colored fireman, Anger avenue southeast.

All were horribly scalded from the waist up by the live steam and were unconscious when taken to the hospital.

According to persons who were in the store at the time, there was no loud explosion, but a noise that resembled a dull, heavy thud, followed by a shock that caused the entire building to vibrate.

A moment later steam commenced pouring up the stairway leading from the engine-room and enveloped the rear part of the store in a cloud.

Coolness Averts Panic. There was a rush for the doors on the part of the shoppers, while many of the girls became hysterical. Several employees prevented a panic by taking up places at the door, and prevented crowding on the part of shoppers who were making a dash for the street and where all a dash for the street and where all a dash for the street.

Deputy Chief Sullivan led the firemen down a narrow iron stairway to the steam-driven engine room, where they finally reached the four men and carried them through the steam up the almost perpendicular ladder to the street.

In the meantime, calls had been sent to the Emergency and Casualty Hospitals for ambulances, but it was realized that the four men were in a critical condition, and passing automobiles were pressed into service to carry them to Emergency Hospital, where all a dash for the street and where all a dash for the street.

Russell's Daughter Faints. The condition of the men when they reached the hospital was such that the surgeons could do nothing for them.

Essex Russell, daughter of Harry Russell, is employed in house furnishing department of the store. Fearing the worst when she heard the explosion in the engine room, she fainted when told that her father had been badly burned.

All the fire boys in the store were scalded immediately, and the wide aisles and the large number of exits on the ground floor made it possible for the floor-walkers and older clerks to clear the building without the amount of confusion that would ordinarily be expected under the circumstances.

Shoppers who were in the store were loud in the praise of the way in which the employees met the emergency and prevented a panic.

Police Sergeant Emerson and Detective Warren, Yermillion, Grant, Messer, and several other Central Office men, as well as Patrolman Currier, of